

June 17, 2003

Office of the Clerk of the Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

2003-22
This morning I read the disturbing article regarding the reduction of child support paid by a parent who has their child/children 52 nights or more. On what can you base this? For one thing, these part time parents are never TRULY responsible for the children. Think about it. They usually have to drive to the custodial parents residence to do the proverbial "pick-up" for which the Court says is conveniently 6:00 p.m. Friday and the "drop-off" is 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Now, according to my calculator, that is 48 hours. Not 52. 52 (a figurative number for 26 weekends) $\times 24$ (hours) = 1248 (the minimal number of hours the child/children will be in the NON custodial parents care). The other 313 days that the custodial parent will have the children amounts to 7512 hours! Now, one may argue the school factor and number of hours a child spends away from the custodial parent but the bottom line is... who does the Court believe is making sure the child is in school, properly dressed, properly fed, and in safe hands after school until the custodial parent can pick them up, and so on. If the child/children are in activities, WHO is seeing that they get there? Who is paying the entry fees? Who is attending the games, and in most cases having to pay to get in? Nothing comes for free!!! Parents are nickled and dimed to death. What about the child who struggles in school and needs tutoring? What about the child who is involved in a fundraiser? Have you ever noticed that the parents have to BUY the items that are NOT sold? Who is paying for that? The parent that gets the kids every other weekend? I know first hand it is not. I believe that IF this change is made in the guidelines, once again the children are going to suffer. There are many cases where the recipient of child support uses the income poorly. Unfortunately, there is no way that can be monitored.

The other thing that is disturbing is the health insurance guidelines. With all of the drastic cuts being made in businesses, insurance is hard to come by. I am a former cosmetologist who NEVER was able to afford insurance for myself, let alone for my child. People who work in trade businesses, like myself, are desperate for affordable health insurance. IT IS NOT OUT THERE! So, my point is this, unless a large corporation gainfully employs the custodial parent, or at least one that is very lucrative, where and how are they going to be able to afford insurance? I do not know what the statistics are but it seems that the majority of custodial parents are women. They struggle to keep it together and now it will get even worse. How sad. It is the Mom who has to tell the kids NO, we can't afford it....

Has the Assoc. for Children for Enforcement of Support Inc. ever looked into the statistics regarding the number of custodial parents who are not only living at poverty level, but are in debt as well? Driving in less than safe vehicles?

And finally, I do not understand why the recipients of child support have to pay taxes on the money they receive. It does not seem truly fair.

Sincerely,
Child support recipient

Jane Nawrocki
3308 LAFAYETTE
TRENTON 48183

